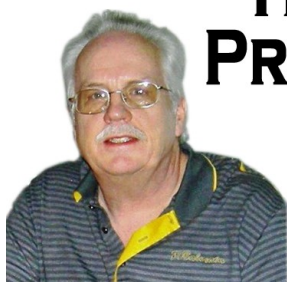


# THE LOGGER'S BARK

1916 - RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA - 2016

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## THE RCT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY  
GARY MCADAMS  
WG7X

**Hello club members!**

As I was listening to one of our repeaters the other day. I heard a "net control" admonish a check in that the correct way to identify your self was to say your call followed by "For ID"!

This immediately made me think of this article, copied for educational purposes... Of course!

**Note:** This "Rusty Bumpers" column is from the May 1993 issue of "Solid Copy", the Richmond (VA) Amateur Telecommunications Societys monthly newsletter. Most of the examples used by "Rusty" have happened on the local repeaters exactly as written, although some of the items are exaggerated slightly for humor. (Step 35 was written before the 1993 "no business" rule change.)

### HOW TO SOUND LIKE A LID by Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

In many areas I have noticed a tendency of people making a distinct effort to sound like a "LID" on the local repeater. Since this appears to be the new style in Amateur Radio, I thought I would present this

incomplete guide to radio LID-dom. The following is what I call: "How to sound like a Lid in one easy lesson."

1) Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for two-meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. For example, "I'm going to QSY to the kitchen." Can you really change frequency to the kitchen? QSL used to mean "I am acknowledging receipt," but now it appears to mean "yes" or "OK." I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning.

2) Never laugh, when you can say "hi hi." No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW ragchewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.

3) Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory." It's OK to make up your own words here. "Yeah Bill, I pheelbart zaphonix occasionally myself."

4) Always say "XX4XXX" (Insert your own call) "for I.D." As mentioned in Step One, anything that creates redundancy is always encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with "for identification purposes" instead of "for I.D." While taking longer to say, it is worth more "LID points".

5) The better the copy on the repeater, the more you should use phonetics. Names should be especially used if they are short

or common ones. I.E. "My name is Al... Alpha Lima" or "Jack.. Juliet Alpha Charlie Kilo." If at all possible use the less common HF phonetics "A4SM... America, Number Four, Sugar Mexico." And for maximum "LID points", make up unintelligible phonetics. "My name is Bob... Billibong Oregano Bumperpool."

6) Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a great memory test. You may also use "and the group" if you are an "old timer" or just have a bad memory. Extra points for saying everyone's call and then clearing in a silly way - like "This is K2xxx, Chow, Chow."

7) Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation", and vice-versa. And even if the amplifier you're using is a Class C type amp, and thus not biased for linear amplification, be sure to call it your "linear." Heck, refer to all FM-style amplifiers as "linears." You'll be king of the "wrong terminology" hill. Or better yet, refer to them as "lin-e-yars."

8) If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, taking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker, and if it is an emergency, encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.

9) Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.

10) The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.

11) If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least four out of six of the following: (1) His mental state; (2) His family; (3) His intelligence, or lack of same; (4) His sexual preference; (5) His relationship to small animals, his mother, or both; (6) His other methods of self entertainment.

12) If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to use the patch. Make sure that it's only a simple routine phone call. It's also very important that you run the autopatch for the full three minutes. This way, once the two re-establish contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.

13) You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective if several other Lid trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have mobiled out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.

14) Use the repeater for an hour or two at a time, preventing others from using it. Better yet, do it on a daily basis. Your quest is to make people so sick of hearing your voice every time they turn on their radio, they'll move to another frequency. This way you'll lighten the

load on the repeater, leaving even more time for you to talk on it.

15) See just how much mobile flutter you can generate by operating at handheld power levels too far from the repeater. Engage people in conversations when you know they won't be able to copy half of what you're saying. Even when they say you are uncopyable, continue to string them along by making further transmissions. See just how frustrated you can make the other amateur before he finally signs off in disgust.

16) Give out wacky radio advice. When a newcomer's signal is weak into the repeater, tell him he can correct the problem by adjusting the volume and squelch knobs on his radio. Or tell people they're full quieting except for the white noise on their signal. Or....well, you get the idea.

17) Use lots of radio jargon. After all, it makes you feel important using words average people don't say. Who cares if it makes you sound like you just fell off of Channel 19 on the Citizen's Band? Use phrases such as "Roger on that," "10-4," "I'm on the side," "You're making the trip," and "Negatory on that."

18) Use excessive microphone gain. See just how loud you can make your audio. Make sure the audio gain is so high that other amateurs can hear any bugs crawling on your floor. If mobile, make sure the wind noise is loud enough that others have to strain to pick your words out from all the racket.

19) Be as verbose as possible. Never say "yes" when you can say "He acquiesced in the affirmative by saying 'yes'." (No kidding, I actually heard that one.)

20) Start every transmission with the word "Roger" or "QSL." Sure, you don't need to acknowledge that you received the other transmission in full. After all, you would simply ask for a repeat if you missed something. But consider it your gift to the other amateur to give him solace every few seconds that his transmissions are being received.

21) When looking for a contact on a repeater, always say you're "listening" or "monitoring" multiple times. I've always found that at least a half dozen times or so is good. Repeating your multiple "listening" IDs every 10 to 15 seconds is even better. Those people who didn't want to talk to you will eventually call you, hoping you'll go away after you have finally made a contact.

22) Give out repeater FM signal reports using the HF SSB R-S system ("You're 5 by 9 here"). Sure it's considered improper for FM operation and you may even confuse some people, but don't let that spoil your fun!

23) Always use a repeater, even if you can work the other station easily on simplex -- especially if you can make the contact on simplex. The coverage of the repeater you use should be inversely proportional to your distance from the other station.

24) If you and the other station are both within a mile or two of the repeater you are using, you should always give a signal report. ("I'm sitting under the repeater and I know you can see it from there, but you're full quieting into the repeater. How about me?")

25) In the same vein as the previous step, when monitoring a repeater, you should always give signal reports as if the repeater didn't exist. ("Yep, I'm right under the repeater. You've got a whopping signal. You're S-9 plus 60. That must be a great rig.")

26) On repeaters with courtesy tones, you should always say "over." Courtesy tones are designed to let everyone know when you have unkeyed, but don't let that stop you. Say "over," "back to you," or "go ahead." It serves no useful purpose, but don't worry -- it's still fun.

27) Think up interesting and bizarre things to do to tie-up the repeater. The goal here is not to facilitate communications, but to entertain all the scanner listeners out there. Do something original. Try to hum CTCSS (PL) tones. Sing pager tones. You're getting the idea.

28) Use the repeater's autopatch for frivolous routine calls. While pulling into the neighborhood, call home to let them know you'll be there in two minutes. Or call your spouse to complain about the bad day you had at work. After all, the club has "measured rate" service on their phone line, so they get charged for each autopatch call. Your endeavor is to make so many patches in a year that you cost the club at least \$20 in phone bills. That way you'll feel you got your money's worth for your dues.

29) Never say "My name is....". It makes you sound human. If at all possible, use one of the following phrases: A) "The personal here is...." B) "The handle here is...." Normally, handles are for suitcases, but it's OK to use them anyway. Don't forget, this has worked just fine for CBers for years. The best retort I ever heard: "My handle is pink, my name is..."

30) Use "73" and "88" incorrectly. Both are already considered plural, but add a "s" to the end anyway. Say "best of 73's" or "88's". Who cares if it means "best regards" and "love and kisses." Better yet, say "seventy thirds"! Or be funny and say "seventy turds." Or talk like a 1960s CBer and sign off with "Threeeeeeees to ya!". (By the way, 70 thirds equals about 23.3, the average CBers IQ.)

31) Make people think you have a split personality by referring to yourself in the plural sense. When you're in conversation and are alone at your radio, always say "We're" or "We've" instead of "I'm" or "I've" (i.e. "we've been doing this...", "we're doing that...", "we're clear"). Everyone knows you're by yourself, but when they ask you who is with you, make up somebody important like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Bill Clinton.

32) Always attempt to use the higher functions of the repeater before you have read the directions. Nothing will work, but you'll have great fun and get lots of people to give you advice.

33) Test repeater functions repeatedly (that's why they call it a repeater). Test your signal strength from the same location several times every day. Concentrate on testing the things that really matter, like the number of time the repeater has been keyed-up. That stuff is fun to track. Test the outside temperature, or the transmitter heat sink temperature as often as possible. The farther the temperature goes from the norms, the more often you should test it. Also, if you get a pager set to the repeater's output frequency, as soon as you receive it set it off every 30 seconds or so until the battery runs down. Better yet, interrupt conversations to test it.

34) If the repeater is off the air for service, complain about the fact that it was off the air as soon as it's turned back on. Act as though your entire day has been ruined because that one repeater wasn't available when you wanted to use it. Even though you have never donated a penny to help out with the upkeep of it, and despite the fact that you have all 42 local repeaters programmed into your mobile radio.

35) Find ways to get around the "no business" rule on auto-patches. Your plan is to try and fool the repeater control operators. Invent code words your secretary at work will understand to disguise any business talk so it sounds like personal chatter. Or get to be friends with the local Domino's Pizza manager. Make it so that when you call him on the patch and ask him to bring over the "floppy disk" you need to your house, he shows-up 30 minutes later with a piping hot large pepperoni and sausage pie. The possibilities are endless....

36) Always make sure you try to communicate with only a handheld and a rubber duck antenna. Also, make sure you work through a repeater that you can hear very well, but it cannot hear you. This will put out a kind of "LID mating call": "Well, Joe, I can hear the repeater just fine here. I wonder why it can't hear me?" You will score maximum LID points if you are mobile, and with the radio lying in the passenger seat.

37) If an annoying station is bothering you, make sure your other "LID" buddies have a "coded" frequency list. Even though "CODES" are strictly forbidden on Amateur Radio, it's really neat to practice "James Bond" tactics.

38) Always use the National Calling Frequency for general conversations. The more uninteresting, the longer you should use it. Extra points are awarded if you have recently move from an adjacent frequency for no reason. Make sure when DX is "rolling" in on 52.525 that you hang out there and talk to your friends five miles down the road about the good old CB days!

39) Make sure that if you have a personal problem with someone, you should voice your opinion in a public forum, especially a net. Make sure you give their name, call, and any other identifying remarks. For maximum points, make sure the person in question is not on the repeater, or not available.

40) Make sure you say the first few words of each transmission twice, especially if it is the same thing each time. Like "roger, roger" or "fine business, fine business". I cannot stress enough about encouraging redundancy.

41) If you hear a conversation on a local repeater, break in and ask how each station is receiving you. Of course they will only see the signal of the repeater you are using, but it's that magic moment when you can find a fellow "LID", and get the report. Extra points are awarded if you are using a base station, and the repeater is less than five air miles from you.

These easy steps should put you well on your way to "LID-Hood". I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect "LID". I should also note that these steps can also apply to simplex operation, but nobody really cares because that pawn-shop HTX-202 isn't going to get out too far with just a rubber duck.

73,Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

P.S. "Rusty Bumpers" is a pen name. He maintains anonymity so he can sit peacefully at club meetings and avoid the wrath (and breath) of the uninformed.

**End of Prez Report**

## GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST

BY RICH KR7W - BARK EDITOR

Aside from Prez Garys tribute to Ham Radio LIDS... the intended theme of this issue of the Loggers Bark is RadioSport- mainly **High Frequency Bands Contesting**. I wrote a story about a small group of ham friends who decide to get together and operate in the upcoming WA State QSO party—aka The Salmon Run.

Myself, I like to dabble in HF contesting—mainly CW. My favorite event is the ARRL's November Sweepstakes-CW and my second favorite is Field Day.

Yah, Sweepstakes has a long complicated exchange and a lot of operators operate at 30+ words per minute, so I mostly **Search** and **Pounce** (or pick n choose) with my 100W signal to a crappy wire dipole—because if I call CQ I most likely will not be heard amongst the BIG GUN 1.5KW stations. My Elmer—Alfred K7PUC used to chant "WORK THE LOUD ONES" as they are more likely able to hear me.

At Field Day— I like to call CQ or 'run' the frequency with a 100 watt station and a Yagi antenna amongst a large number of other 100 W stations. . But when I operate in the Sweepstakes— it's S & P. Sometimes I am intimidated with nervousness waiting my turn to push the F3 Pounce key that will send my call sign into the mix of many others hoping to get that needed Section from the 35+ Words Per Minute BIG GUN. So, why do I operate amongst the Big Guns every year?

I mostly enjoy preparing my station for the event— dinking around and making sure everything will work. Test and re-test and I almost always figure out some way to improve how it all works. Then during the

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event— I am building my listening skills and I usually learn something new about that complicated radio I've owned for 8 years.

The WA State QSO Party— aka **Salmon Run** — is the third weekend in September. Your radio club will participate as a Two Transmitter Club Station... and hopefully win again. As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter— Your Radio Club uses the Salmon Run event as a pledge drive fundraiser event. Please be generous by donating if you can... and/or stop by the club house and sit down in front of a radio and either make some contacts or observe. It's a great way to get some High Frequency experience.



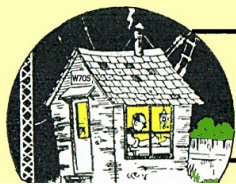
*The Radio Club of Tacoma*

**Your Radio Club  
Needs your help**

**RCT needs donations....  
of Amateur Radio Equipment**

RCT's Property Management Team is still looking for donations— for club use or to sell to raise \$\$ for the club coffers. If you have or know of someone with excess ham equipment— please consider gifting it to RCT. It's tax deductible.





# HAMSHACK<sub>s</sub> OF THE MONTH

BY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS



It's the RCT Clubhouse Lou Room (first floor) station– with some recent improvements. This station depicts a typical 'Not too fancy– Little Pistol' contest station set up that most hams can have at their home.

The previous radio, IC-737– which was used at Field Day and found to be troublesome– is now replaced with a recently donated radio– A Yaesu FT-950—which is one generation newer than the IC-737. The Field Day ops found the 950 to be agreeable to use once becoming familiar with the Yaesu menu methodology.

On top the 950 is a HomeBuilt PC to Rig Interface that replaces the previous RigBlaster Advantage. The HB interface has a K1EL Winkeyer built in (advantageous for CW operators) and a SSB / DATA switch that routes PC audio either to the MIC jack for SSB contesting or to the radios rear DATA jack for RTTY, PSK, JT data modes. The Iambic Paddle and the Straight Key plug into the HB interface for simultaneous operation of either method of keying.

The Mic Boom arm– from an old desk lamp– sports a repurposed GE mobile radio dynamic microphone which has a crisp clear sound that rivals any of the Bob Heil Contest mics. This mic set up was previously used on W7DK's Ten Tec Omni-6+ transceiver. [note: The same mic element is used at the 2nd Floor HF Pro-3 station] On the floor is a foot switch for hands free Push To Talk.

The Speaker system– another GE mobile radio device– engineered and built for clear crisp sound is part of a HomeBuilt dual headphone amplifier system for ops who prefer to use 'cans'- as the Lou Rooms social chatter can be distracting to some operators.

The Rigs PC– a powerful Windows 7- is contained in a wall mounted box above and to the right of the FT-950. Of course, the PC is chock full of contesting, digital mode, propagation, and programming software.

The Antennas, either of two Yagis, 40M dipole, 80M dipole, or Dummy Load- for this station are selected via two coax 'tie cables' to the 2nd Floors HF Antenna Patch Panel.

If anyone is interested in more detail about this 'not too fancy Little Pistol' station- - - feel free to ask Randy WB4SPB and/or Rich KR7W.

Photo and Text by KR7W



The Pin's actual size is: 1.25 x 1.25 inches.

John AC7WW announces that he has W7DK 100 Year Anniversary Pins made and club members can obtain them for FREE and additional pins are \$2.00 each, and if John mails them to you then add \$3.00 plus a donation, if applicable. John can be contacted at:

AC7WW 253-948-6297

Email: [ac7ww@arrl.net](mailto:ac7ww@arrl.net)

Your opinionated Bark Editor sez: I have a pin, and it's pretty cool. This is a worthy cause- please donate something extra. If you don't- I know who you are.

### It's SALMON RUN Time...

The Radio Club of Tacoma holds a fundraiser event every year in conjunction with the Washington State Salmon Run Contest [LINK]. Pledges by Club members may be a dollar amount multiplied by the total number of Washington counties worked by the Club's station W7DK during the contest period.

Some hams venture out to make contacts from other Washington counties by operating temporary portable expedition stations

Member RED WB7EC who is working on a W7DK centennial patch (featured in the July Bark) in conjunction with Mike W7MKE reports that members are voting, changes are being made, but the final selection is not 'ready for prime time' yet. More info will follow regarding this worthwhile project.



The Jury is out as to which patch will be selected for members to obtain.

or mobile rover stations. Others come by the Clubhouse to help with the fundraiser festivities or maybe grab the microphone or CW key to make some contacts on the air.

The more experienced hams love to crank up the power, log contacts at an extremely rapid pace, and dazzle visitors with their operating skills. Members and their guests are all welcome to enjoy a potluck dinner downstairs in the Clubhouse, which begins at about 6:00 PM on Saturday evening. Pledge packages will be mailed to members soon.

### 2016 Salmon Run CONTEST PERIOD

Saturday, September 17, 9:00 AM to midnight PDT

Sunday, September 18, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM PDT





# AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

## PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE INFO



Last month it was reported that Club Member Bob K7MXE gifted the club a set of picnic tables for the club's 100th Birthday. Soon after, Bob K7MXE came back and nicely routed the date of— The beginning of RCT— into the top surface of the larger table. Thanks, Bob— The rest of the story is history.



Here's Mike W7MKE hand scrapping the old paint off the west side of the clubhouse garage. Kudos to Mike for enduring the 85 degree heat at 1:00 PM.

Below is the south side of the clubhouse garage— that club member Steve AF7YD has been furiously repairing deterioration to get it ready for a coat of paint. Item X in the photo is a 2x10 load bearing decorative surface that item Y rests upon. X and Y are were found to be heavily dry-rotted. Item Y is two 2x10s sistered to



form the beam across the opening when there used to be a garage door across the entire south side.

Steve is in the process of removing these rotted boards – and hopefully will not find more damage.

Board X did not have a bevel cut so it couldn't act like a window sill to use gravity to move water away from the structure. Water collected on top of X and infiltrated boards Y.

**Amateur Radio Contesting-** AKA Radiosport so noted by our friends at the ARRL- is a competitive activity in which ham operators make QSOs with as many other ham ops as they can under a specific set of rules. There are contests in which the ham ops make QSOs using VHF/UHF, Microwave, 160 through 10 Meters HF, or only 160 Meters. Some contests are specific to the amateur radio modes of operation, i.e. SSB or CW or RTTY or PSK-31 only- or a combination of all (like Field Day). For the "Contest" or Radiosport activity to be a contest, there must be a scoring method defined by the RULES. Note: Amateur Radio Direction Finding (aka ARDF) is a Radiosport activity where no QSOs are made, where the score is determined by the amount of time each participant takes to find the hidden transmitters.

Radiosport events are sponsored by many different organizations such as: The ARRL (Field Day, November Sweepstakes, others); CQ Magazine (WPX, World Wide DX, others) Western WA DX Club (Salmon Run); and many other organizations- usually a radio club. It seems that there is a ham radio contest every weekend. The [WA7BNM Contest Calendar webpage](#) [LINK] shows all scheduled radiosport events throughout the calendar year. Contest winners may receive "wall paper" award certificates or a chunk of smoked salmon. The ARRL will award the 'clean sweep' winners of the November Sweepstakes with a coffee cup or a pin after the winner sends in the required dollar amount. Pecuniary awards are prohibited by FCC Part 97.

Radiosport is different from DX Hunting, Working All States, Work All Counties, and other on the air award chasing activities. DX Hunting does not have a 'score' based on the number of QSOs (plus other factors) made within the time limit specified within the RULES.

Even though there is a Radiosport event almost every weekend- the month of September is when we settle down from vacation activities and the contest season begins with CQ World Wide DX RTTY, the New Jersey QSO party, and our clubs favorite- the WA State QSO Party- aka 'The Salmon Run'.

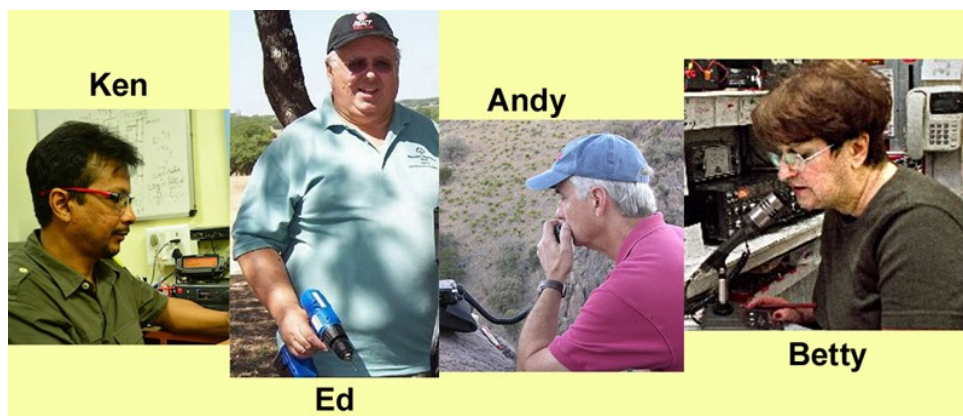


**CONTEST ZONE:** This article hopes to provide- in story form- ideas and items to consider for the HF contesting newbie who wants to participate in a Radiosport event- from their home ham shack or as part of a group of newbie hams who want to get together and operate as a team from the same station. This article tells the story involving 4 ham operator friends who are about to face some unusual or extraordinary circumstances and enter the "Contest Zone."

**So, Imagine if you will...** These four (no code) ham radio friends who live in Ephrata, WA: **Ken** is a 40 year old single plumber whose had his General Class license for four years and has attended two Field Day events where he made contacts on 20 meter SSB; **Ed**- a General Class license holder who is a recently retired electronics technician who got into ham radio because his wife insisted he have a "retirement hobby"; **Andy** is a retired auto mechanic with Extra class license and his wife **Betty**- a retired third grade teacher who recently obtained her General class license at the encouragement of OM Andy. Andy and Betty have recently remodeled their family room to be their empty-nesters Hobby Room. Andy's shack is on one wall and Betty's sewing nook on the other.



**THE EVENT:** Andy and Betty have invited Ken and Ed to participate in the WA state QSO party (aka **The Salmon Run**), using Andy's station in the new Hobby Room.



**THE STATION:** Andy's 'not too fancy *little pistol*' station consists of a 100 watt Ten Tec Omni 6+ transceiver with matching speaker/ power supply, and a Shure 526 desk microphone. Andy's antenna farm consists of a 3 element 20 meter rotatable Yagi on a 50 ft tower, 40 Meter and 80 Meter Inverted Vee dipoles with the apex at the top of the tower. Andy dabbles in SSB DX chasing and has 63 confirmed countries. Andy logs and confirms

his DX QSOs on an older XP PC using N3FJP's AC Log. Betty likes to listen to Andy's DX contacts and sometimes takes the mic from Andy and checks into the 3940 Dipsie Social Net where she learned about 'The Salmon Run'.



Betty, who seems pretty enthusiastic, has invited Ken and Ed to the Hobby Room for a Pie N Coffee pre-contest meeting. Betty asked everyone to bring ideas to the meeting and to read the RULES.

Ken reports that the Field Day station he operated used a Microphone on a flexible boom-right next to his mouth. The radio transmitter was keyed using a foot switch. This made it 'hands free' and much easier to use the PC keyboard for logging or scribbling notes. Ed, the old electronics technician reveals that he found a microphone on a flexible boom in the trash where he used to work. Betty has an old sewing machine foot pedal with a frayed cord. Ed volunteers to figure out how to adapt these components to work with Andy's radio.

Ken Also reports at the Field Day station which used N1MM logging software- they coupled the logging PC to the radio and by pushing a F key, automatically called "CQ Field Day" over and over again until a keystroke was entered. Andy knows that his N3FJP AC logging program will do this, but how? Betty reports that Andy's N3FJP software suite includes the WA State QSO party logging software. Ken asks, "What about N1MM software? It includes all of the State QSO parties." Ed agrees to figure out how to adapt Andy's PC to his Ten Tec radio for automatic CQ calling.

**Accessories of Convenience-** At the next Hobby Room meeting it is revealed that Ed- even though there are many designs on the web- doesn't have time to build and test out a device to couple Andy's PC to his Ten Tec Radio. Instead he recommended a couple of manufactured devices sold by Ham Radio Outlet that Andy could purchase. Ed brought the 'in the trash' Mic on a Boom and the modified sewing machine pedal with the correct plugs installed to plug into Andy's newly acquired (half price) Rig Blaster Advantage from QRZ.com Ham Ads. Ed added a 8 pin Foster plug to the Boom Mic to plug into the Rigblaster. Then he modified the Rigblaster's mic cable to work with the Ten Tec Omni-6s 4 pin mic jack. Ed also built a data cable to plug into the Omni-6s CIV jack so the logging software can read the radios frequency. Ken brought an apple pie he freshly baked for the party. So, over Ken's Pie N Betty's Coffee the group set up 'Accessories of Convenience' on Andy's ham station- but not without some extra hurdles to jump.



**A nice find on QRZ.com Ham Ads**



Even though the N1MM logging software is free... Andy decided to use N3FJP software for logging. "It's less intimidating and looks easier for everybody to use", he comments. However, setting the software to read the radios frequency as well as getting the PC to operate **Push To Talk** on the radio took some study and experimenting. "There's too many paths to success", says Andy. Ed and Andy studied the N3FJP web pages and the Rig Blaster Advantage manual to set the jumpers and serial port options and finally got the PC to read the radio frequency and key up the radio when sending a "CQ Salmon Run" audio file.

**Can you hear me now?** Betty had noticed the guy's success. She suggested that they record an audio file and play it over the air through the Ten Tec radio and have another ham tune it in and give a report. Ed recorded "Testing One Two Three Four" using the small electret mic that came with the PC. Ken was listening at his home station 10 miles away. "It doesn't sound very good, unintelligible, hard to understand each word", he reports. "Well, the radio seems to be set correct. The ALC indicator is blinking like it should, so it's not over driven with too much audio", says Andy. "When you talk into the Boom Mic it sounds pretty clear and crisp" says Ken. Andy and Ed then played the audio file from the PCs speaker. It sounded mushy and lacked intelligence.

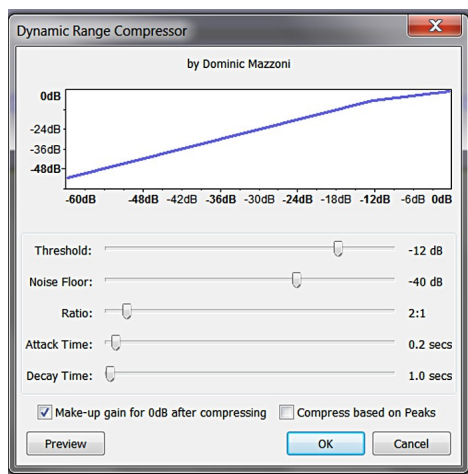
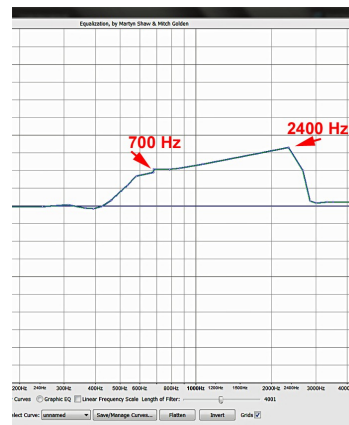
Andy wonders if there's something wrong with his PC microphone. Ed asks if there's another mic they could try. All Andy has is a junk Icom speaker-mic from an old handy-talkie. With Andy's permission, Ed cuts the dual plug in half and plugs the Mic part into the PC. A new recording was produced, re-transmitted over the air, while Ken listened. Ken reports that it is a bit easier to understand but it still doesn't sound clear.



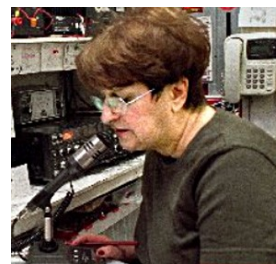
Betty mentions that she remembers reading in Consumer Reports how broadcast stations enhance the audio in commercials to sound louder and more clear by enhancing the higher voice frequencies. Ed then remembers reading an article by Mr MFJ (Martin F Jue)

about older male hams developing high frequency hearing loss and that a MFJ product was built to boost the frequencies from 800 to 2500 Hz for clearer reception. Editor says: Read this: <http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-616> [LINK]. Ed wonders if there is an audio software program that could do that with this recording. **Google introduces Betty to the audio processing software- Audacity.** See: <http://www.audacityteam.org/download/> [LINK]. [Editor's note: Audacity is sort of like the Photoshop of sound files.]

Betty watches this Youtube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCisC3sHneM> and practices her skills with Ed and Andy's recorded audio file. She uses the graphic equalizer to increase the MFJ audio range and to add some compression to give the sound some extra 'punch'. Betty also figured out that the Audacity program would record input from the Mic- so no need to use the Windows Sound Recorder app. The next day Ed and Andy play the equalized audio file over the airwaves for Ken at his home station. Ken was amazed at how clear the sound was and how it 'popped' above the other signals and noise. Betty organizes a 'recording party' where she records Andy's "Male Files" of "CQ Salmon Run + Station Call" and the exchange of "Five Nine Grant County". She does the same with her voice.



**BETTY'S GOT A TEMPERATURE...** How do you get to Carnegie Hall?, the tourist asked the man holding a musical instrument case walking down the street in Manhattan? The musician replied, "Practice, practice, practice". Betty had heard this story before- which drove her to call one more Pie N Coffee meeting of the (or is it her) Salmon Run contest group. She had questions about operating and logging. Do we work as a two person team where one person works the computer and the other operates the radio like I've seen in some Youtube



Field Day videos? Or does the same operator do both? Based on his Field Day experience - Ken offered that it seemed to work best if a two person team manned the station. After a while the two will work in synch. Betty then wondered about how the keyboard F keys should be laid out for ease of quickly sending out the needed information. Someone suggested skipping assigning every other button so not to fat finger any one of them. Forward thinking Betty handed out prepared operating aids- laminated sheets of The Phonetic Alphabet, a list of Washington counties and their abbreviations and a paper keyboard mask with the F keys labeled with their associated audio files.

Examples: **F1**=CQ, **F3**=POUNCE, **F5**=FIVE NINE GRANT, **F7**=QRZed? Ken jokingly called Betty "The Contest Queen Bee".

The CQB had everyone sit down at the computer and take turn pushing the F Keys and listening to the audio files they produced from the speaker. They practiced logging some call



signs with made up exchange info and practiced editing a log entry. Betty showed them the software's map feature- where a WA State Map is shown with each county colored in if a QSO is logged with that county. Ken then remarked, "The CQB has now **Got the Fever**"- to be the first station to get a 'Clean Sweep'- aka Worked all WA Counties. The Friday evening before the big event, Betty was on the 3940 Dipsie Social Net where she reported the progress of her group and that she thought that they were ready. Some Dipsie members replied back "Go Girl!" Others chimed in, "Let us know what frequency you will be on and well be there to help you with your Clean Sweep".



Imagine if Betty and Andy along with Ken and Ed achieve the coveted Clean Sweep by making contact with all 39 Washington State counties, or perhaps they are lacking only Ferry County? Will they realize that they've overlooked a small item that makes a big difference? Will the Dipsie's be of help or hindrance? Will there be a surprise thunder storm and an 8 hour power failure? Stayed tuned in a future Loggers Bark for the exciting conclusion of "The Contest Zone".

---

**Epilog:** Before I wrote the above long chock full-O-factoids story... I wanted to explore and report why some amateur operators like to do contesting. I imagined (if I will) myself as a fly buzzing around the club house during the Salmon Run and other HF contests, and made note of those people who operated the radio equipment and asked them, "Why?"

Respondent 1- mentioned that he didn't consider himself a tester- but pitched in during Field Day and Salmon Run to help the club out.

Respondent 2- says I do enjoy occasionally operating nice equipment (e.g. RCT's stations), getting into some fast-paced action and maybe finding "the zone" where I can hone the efficiency of my operation. I particularly enjoy being part of a team, whether I'm operating or contributing in some other way.

Respondent 3- tells, "All that's needed is a small station. I can test my abilities. It's a good way to make QSOs for awards like DXCC or WAS, and more. In a group setting it can be nicely social.

Respondent 4- says they like the idea of quick QSOs- it's ham radio without having to rag-chew. This operator also likes to compete against him/herself.

Best regards, Rich KR7W, Bark Editor.



## HINTS AND KINKS

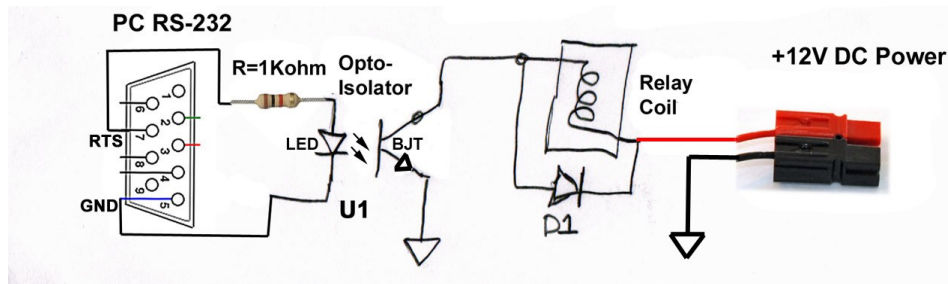
CONSTRUCTION & INSTRUCTION  
BY READER SUBMISSION



### A Simple Contest PC to Radio Interface—Easy to Build

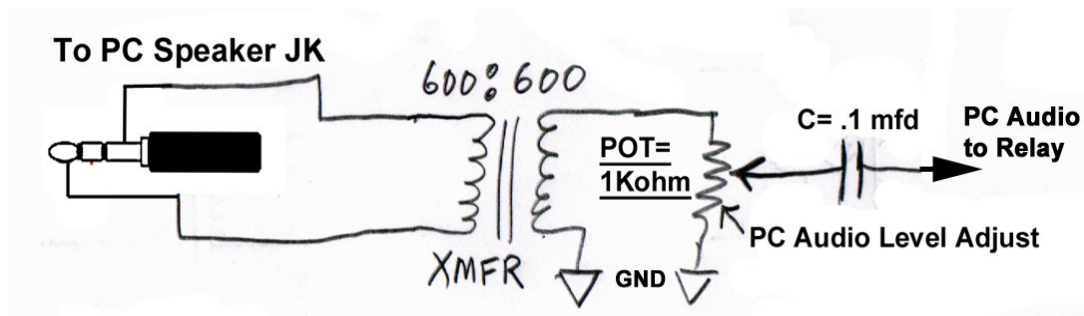
If you read the contesting adventures of Ken, Ed, Andy and Betty— the story reads that Ed, the geek of the group didn't have time to build a PC to Radio interface for Andy's Ten Tec Omni-6 station. Ed wanted to build an interface similar to what's shown in this article. A ham with soldering skills like Ed could easily build one of these for their own HF station. The interface has three functions:

1. When the Contesting Software calls for **PTT** (push to talk) the PC sends a signal to the Serial Port. Now-a-days modern PCs do not have physical serial ports. Ops use USB to SER adaptor cables which creates a Virtual Serial Port within the PC.



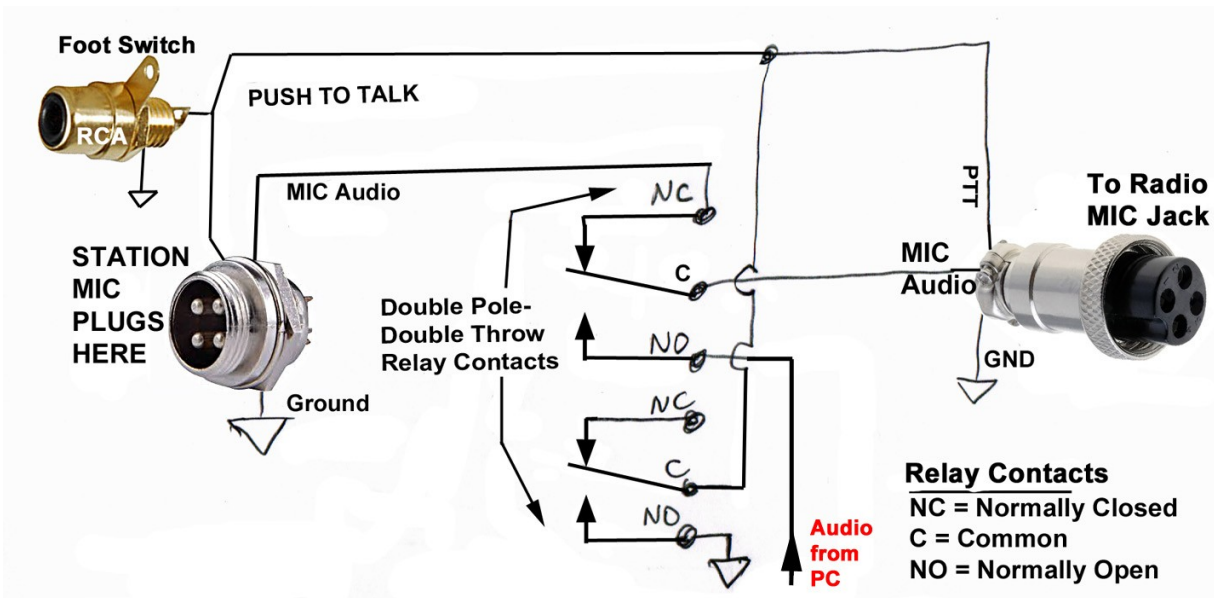
When the Software calls for **PTT** then +9 volts is applied on the **RS-232 Serial Port RTS** and **GND** leads through the **LED** side of the Opto-Isolator **U1**. The **BJT** side of

the opto-isolator acts as an OFF-ON switch completing the path to energize the relay coil with +12V. The Opto-Isolator device isolates any voltages or GNDs between the PC and the Radio Equipment to prevent unwanted AC hum in the audio path and to minimize RF interference between the radio and PC. The energized relay coil causes the relay's switch contacts to operate— as shown in the last diagram.



2. When the Contesting Software calls for PTT it will send out the user selected audio file via the PC's speaker jack (i.e. "CQ Salmon Run"). This audio passes through an Isolation **XMFR** (transformer) to isolate grounds and voltages between the PC and the radio equipment as mentioned above. The **POT** (variable resistor) finely adjusts the amount of PC audio to exactly match the station microphone audio level.

3. When the contest operator is using the station microphone- the **MIC** audio passes through the **NC** to **C** relay contacts to the interface cable that plugs into the radios MIC jack. In this case the relay is NOT operated. When the Software and PC initiates PTT and sends the audio file to the PC Speaker Jack- the relay operates. **PC Audio** is present at the



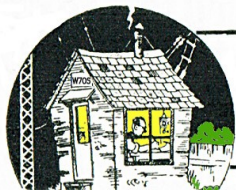
**NO** relay contact and is passed to the **C** relay contact to the Radio MIC jack. At the same time the lower relay contacts- **C** and **NO** switch together to apply a **GND** to the **PTT** wire in the Radio Mic Jack which operates Push to Talk in the transceiver. PC audio now modulates the Transceiver and is radiated via the antenna.

The Foot Switch (usually a RCA plug/jack)- GNDs the PTT line that is in parallel with the MIC PTT path. This allows the operator to have hands free PTT when using the station MIC.

In the 'Contesting Zone' story, Andy and Ed were having trouble choosing the correct **SE-RIAL port** for the Rigblaster Advantage. The more complex Advantage has a built in **USB-SER** device that creates **virtual COM PORTS** in the PC's device manager. Once Andy and Ed chose the correct port number- then they needed to choose the correct serial port control lead- either **DTR** or **RTS** in the N3FJP contest software. This HomeBuilt interface uses the **RTS** lead.

My last thought on this: This useful gizmo isn't just for operating in contests. I use my PC -Rig interface in conjunction with **N3FJP's AC Log** (general logging software) to repetitively send out a "CQ" audio file when looking for someone to have a 'rag-chew' QSO with.

I hope this info has been informative, not too geeky, boring, or intimidating. If you have problems setting up your contest software and/or PC to Radio Interface or think you might want to build one these devices for your own station- ask around on Saturday at the RCT Clubhouse and you most likely be pointed my way. 73 Rich KR7W.



## TNT THE NEW THING

## WHAT'S NEW AND NOTABLE IN HAM RADIO?

CONTRIBUTIONS BY READERS LIKE YOU

### Another Icom Horse is Out of the Barn by former N7EOB- Cub Reporter

**Icom Inc.** has shown the very first samples of the IC-7610 IC-R8600, IC-R30 and ID-51 PLUS2 to the public at the Tokyo Ham Fair 2016 (August 20-21, 2016).

**IC-7610 HF/50MHz Transceiver** (Base Station) is the successor to the IC-7600 and will be a dual-watch capable HF+50MHz 100W base station with built-in antenna tuner. The LCD will be touch screen and you will be able to connect an external display.

**IC-R30 Communications Receiver** (Handheld) The IC-R30 is the successor to the popular IC-R20 compact handheld receiver. The IC-R30 can listen to two signals under certain conditions (analogue + analogue or analogue + digital). The IC-R30 will be able to decode D-STAR, P25, NXDN and dPMR digital (conventional) modes. -

**ID-51 Plus 2 Dual Band D-Star Digital Transceiver** (Handheld) is a special edition model which will come in several colors and patterns. The new Terminal Mode and Access Point Modes enable you to make D-Star calls through the Internet even from areas where no D-Star Repeater is accessible.

More details will be available nearer to each products launch date. No details regarding pricing and availability.

Editor's Note: This announcement reminds me of the beginning of the IC-7300- from announcement to some club members having them in their home stations.

The IC-7600 was the replacement radio for the now older IC-756 Pro 3 (like in the RCT HF station on 2nd Floor). Now, the 7610 will have IC-7300 touch screen PLUS+++ an external monitor jack for big viewing.

Anderson Power Poles are used by many ham operators as encouraged by Emcom groups. At Radio Station KR7W- All +12V connections are Power Pole (also in my car). I stumbled across this handy Power Pole gizmo that may be of use to you hams out there in radio-land:



**Retention Clips...** keep those PPs from coming loose or apart. They are easy to insert and remove. [photo captured from PowerWerx.com].

I got mine from RFParts.com. But since I stole the photo from [PowerWerx](http://PowerWerx.com) [LINK]- Please consider purchasing from them.

73 KR7W CL

**Club Meeting MINUTES**

Radio Club of Tacoma  
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda  
July 6, 2016

**Meeting called to order** at 7:00 p.m.

**Officers and Directors Present**

President Gary McAdams WG7X  
Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ  
Secretary Mike Finnie W7MWF  
Board Alan Ferguson N7OMS  
Board Nick Winter K7MO  
Board Bruce Hanson WE7P  
Board Bob Jamison KE7WPK  
Board Paul Matney W7PFU

**A quorum** was present. 12 Individuals signed the attendance roster.

**Silent Key or Illness** None reported

**The Minutes** from the June 1, 2016 Board Meeting were approved

**Secretary's Report** (W7MWF) Correspondence –Phone Bill, ISP Bill, subscriptions.  
Bank Statements, IRS Form 990 update, memberships and badge orders, Assessor NOV.

**Treasurer's Report** Mike W7XTZ distributed the treasurer's reports, which are filed with these minutes.

**Committee / Reports**

**Membership** George K7GRS advised that membership stood at 295. Issue of partial dues payments was discussed, and the Secretary and Membership Chairman will develop a protocol to follow-up with members sending insufficient payments

**Training (AD7AB)** Next Technician Class October 8/9, 2016

**Info Tech** Randy WB4SPB reported all systems are nominal.

**HF Operations** Bruce WE7P and Mike W7MWF reported broken ribbon cable on IC756 Pro III. New cable has been ordered from ICom for \$84.

**Facilities Mgmt** Steve AF7YD will inspect fascia boards on garage prior to painting party to be scheduled.

**Property Mgmt** Mike W7MWF reported team is updating loaner program inventory and notification to members.

**Weds Activity Nite** Open house get on the air night. Try out some of the newly added rigs.



General Mtg (W7UUU) TBD

### **Unfinished Business**

Centennial Planning Discussion of banquet plans, special events, commemorative patches.

Tower Inspection Nick K7MO reported tower inspection has been completed and no significant issues were discovered. Technician advised repainting tower, replacing and repositioning guy lines. Written report to follow which will be distributed upon receipt.

### **New Business**

Other New Business Mike W7MWF reported on Rich KR7W proposal re Boat Anchor Field Day to ARRL. Board endorsed the idea. Rich was subsequently advised and will prepare a written proposal for review and submission

### **Activity Reports and Discussion Topics**

Field Day Recap and after action report was presented by Randy. 1226 QSOs were made. Other sStatistics for Field Day are available on the Club website and a copy is filed with these minutes. The Secretary was directed to send a thank you letter to Western State Hospital management.

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Radio Club of Tacoma  
**General Membership Meeting Notes**  
July 13, 2016

**Meeting called to order** at 7:29 p.m. by President Gary WG7X at the Pierce County Library Administration Building.

### **Officers and Directors Present**

President Gary McAdams WG7X  
Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ  
Secretary Mike Finnie W7MWF  
Board Paul Matney W7PFU

**Pledge of Allegiance** led by Gary WG7X

**Welcome** – Self introductions of members and guests was conducted. 35 individuals signed the attendance roster

**Field Day 2016 Report** Randy WB4SPB provided a recap of activities and results from the event. It was deemed an overall success considering somewhat poor propagation conditions. Thanks were extended to participants both operational and logistical in nature.

**Health and Welfare**

It was announced by Dave W7UUU that the ham radio mentor who inspired the term "Elmer" — Elmer P. "Bud" Frohardt Jr, W9DY (ex-W9GFF), of Madison, Wisconsin — died on March 22. He was 93.

**Secretary's Report** (W7MWF) Usual stuff, bank statements, subscriptions, utility bills, Assessor's Notice

**Treasurer's Report** (W7XTZ)

Pass the Field Day Pig and suggestion box around

**Committee / Activity Reports**

Membership George K7GRS announced that our current membership stands at 295

VE Report John AC7WW provided the report for the July 12 2016 VE Session. A copy of the report is filed with the minutes

Training – Next Tech Class October 8/9

HF Operations Rich KR7W reported on the recent successful repair of the ICom 756 Pro III. An internal ribbon cable had failed and was replaced with a new one through the efforts of Rich and Bruce WE7P.

4<sup>th</sup> Weds Activity Night This month's activity on July 27 will be an Open House-Get On The Air. A chance to try hone your skills and try out some new rigs.

**Program** Dave presented an interesting and informative program "All about the ARRL today" with a PPT produced by the League last year.

**Unfinished Business and Announcements**

Tower Inspection results Gary WG7X provided a brief overview of the tower condition pending receipt of the final written report. In a nutshell, the tower is in good overall shape. The inspector recommends repainting, plus replacement and re-positioning of guy cables.

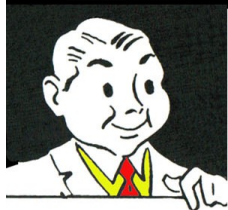
**Boeing Company 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** It was announced that Boeing Ham Clubs will be operating this weekend as N7B during a special event recognizing the corporation's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Door Prize** The door prize, a carpenter's level, was won by John N7TES

**Raffle** The MFJ Antenna Analyzer was won by Whit KG7LNZ

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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# THE LOGGER'S BARK PHOTO PAGE



Randy WB4SPB operates KR7W's radio under the Mt Rainier ARC call of WW7LW in the 2015 ARRL November CW Sweepstakes contest.

219 QSOs were made in about 4 hours total of casual operating.

WW7LW's efforts were mentioned in QST—being 4th (out of 5 calls listed) place in the West Coast Region Multi-Operator Low-Power entries.

Your editor thinks this is gloat worthy even though no wall paper awards were issued.

My apologies in advance for the Non Ham Radio related photo.

This image was photographed in Mt Rainier NP, along the Wonderland Trail between The Sunrise Visitor area and the White River Campground, at elevation of approx 5700 ft.

Mt Tahoma looms high in the center. The terminus (mouth) of the Emmons Glacier that creates one of the forks of the White River is seen.

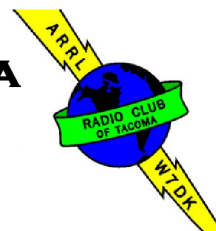




## RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

1916 - 2016

### 100 YEARS OF SERVICE



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### CLUB OFFICERS

President: Gary McAdams WG7X 253-984-0868 email to [wg7x @ w7dk.org](mailto:wg7x@w7dk.org)  
Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ email to [w7xtz @ w7dk.org](mailto:w7xtz@w7dk.org)  
Secretary: Mike Finnie email to [w7mwf @ w7dk.org](mailto:w7mwf@w7dk.org)  
Treasurer: Vacant. Mike W7XTZ Acting Treasurer [w7xtz@w7dk.org](mailto:w7xtz@w7dk.org)

### 5 BOARD MEMBERS

Al Ferguson N7OMS email to [n7oms @ w7dk.org](mailto:n7oms@w7dk.org)  
Nick Winter K7MO email to [k7mo @ w7dk.org](mailto:k7mo@w7dk.org)  
Bruce Hanson WE7P email to [we7p @ w7dk.org](mailto:we7p@w7dk.org)  
Bob Jamison KE7WPK email to [ke7wpk@w7dk.org](mailto:ke7wpk@w7dk.org)  
Paul Matney email to [w7pfu@w7dk.org](mailto:w7pfu@w7dk.org)

### LOGGER'S BARK STAFF

Editor: Rich Patrick KR7W

Contributors: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma

Send articles to: [599kr7w@gmail.com](mailto:599kr7w@gmail.com) Bark, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98111

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### RADIO CLUB REPEATERS

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia @ 1800 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 - PL=141.3

[www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org) [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.